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Title: Need to take immediate steps, to ensure that Ms. P.U. Chitra, who won the gold medal at the recent Asian Athletic meet must represent India at the International Meet at London.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to draw the attention of this august House to a grave injustice done to a most deserving athlete, Ms. P.U. Chitra, who won the gold medal at the recent Asian Athletic Meet held at Bhubaneswar for the 1,500 metre event. But it is extremely distressing to note that she has, for no reason, been denied opportunity to participate in the World Athletic Meet to be held in London.

Ms. Chitra is the pride of our country and she hails from an extremely poor family of Kerala. Thousands of sports-loving persons are deeply agitated over the authoritarian attitude of the Athletic Federation of India depriving this most promising athlete of the opportunity to participate in the London Meet.

Madam, Sports Federations are virtually becoming law unto themselves, and decisions are being taken at their whims and fancies.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and immediate steps should be taken to ensure that Ms. P.U. Chitra represents India at the International Meet in London.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, we are seeking a clarification from the Government....(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You may associate with him.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER:

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Shri N.K. Premachandran and

*m04 Shri Shashi Tharoor are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.